

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Official Action of December 8, 2004, relating to the above-identified application.

A certified copy of applicants' German priority document is filed herewith.

The Examiner is thanked for his suggestions on claim language and, accordingly, Claim 34 has been amended as recommended on page 2 of the Official Action and also to incorporate the feature of Claim 39. Also, Claims 49 and 50 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis.

A one-month extension of time is filed herewith, together with the associated fee.

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of Claims 39-43, 51-57 and 59 are allowable. Accordingly, Claim 34 has been amended to incorporate the feature of Claim 39. In view of this amendment, it is believed that the application is in immediate condition for allowance.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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